



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year

1970

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G. R. THORPE, Medical Officer of Health

M. S. LESLIE, Chief Public Health Inspector

**To the Chairman and Members of the Leighton-Linslade  
Urban District Council**

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1970. The vital statistics indicate that the health of the district remains in a satisfactory state. There has been little change over the past few years.

There were 436 births in the district, including 17 illegitimate births. Deaths of infants under the age of one year totalled 11. There were 9 still-births.

During the year 169 deaths took place, 33 of these were due to malignant disease, 9 of these were due to lung cancer; diseases of the heart accounted for 59 deaths and 23 deaths were due to disease of the cerebrovascular system.

Deaths from lung cancer continue to cause concern. A great deal of publicity has been given to this disease and its connection with cigarette smoking. Once the habit of smoking has been formed it is often difficult to give it up. It is necessary to concentrate on advising children not to start the habit and to explain the merits of not smoking rather than to give frightening reports of what will happen if they do. It is a difficult task when they see so many others smoking and they do not understand the continued advertising of cigarettes and the absence of control over their manufacture and sale. Until the adult population changes its attitude towards smoking it will be difficult to convince children of the danger in cigarettes.

I should like to express my gratitude to the Members of the Council for their support and interest in the work of the Health Department.

My thanks are also due to the staff of the Health Department for their conscientious work during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. R. THORPE

Medical Officer of Health

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health: G. R. Thorpe, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Chief Public Health Inspector:  
M. S. Leslie, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert. R.S.A. (Scot)  
Housing Manager: N. Dawson.  
Additional Public Health Inspector: D. C. England, M.A.P.H.I.  
Student Public Health Inspector: R. G. Gittings.  
Clerk/Typist: Mrs. Z. Lowes, until 12th November 1970.  
Clerk: Mrs. B. Bowkett.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,180
Population:								
Census for 1961	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,745
Registrar General's estimate of home population								
mid-year 1970	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,140
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book							...	6,418
Rateable value at end of December 1970	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,075,452
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£4,350

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

BIRTHS					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	236	183	419
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	7	10	17
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals					243	193	436
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Crude Birth Rate					21.6 per 1,000 home population		
Adjusted Birth Rate					19.7 per 1,000 home population		
(The comparability factor for the District being 0.91)							
As compared with:							
Adjusted Rate for Bedfordshire					17.7 per 1,000 home population		
Rate for England and Wales					16.0 per 1,000 home population		

STILL BIRTHS

L BIRTHS					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals					5	4	9
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Still Birth Rate					20.0 per 1,000 (live & still births)		
As compared with:							
Rate for Bedfordshire					8.7 per 1,000 (live & still births)		
Rate for England and Wales					13.0 per 1,000 (live & still births)		

DEATHS

					Male	Female	Total
Deaths in the District	...	...	...	...	44	35	79
Transferred into the District	...	...	...	...	51	47	98
Transferred from the District	...	...	...	...	3	5	8
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				Totals	92	77	169
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>



Crude Death Rate	8.4 per 1,000 home population
Adjusted Death Rate	9.9 per 1,000 home population
(The comparability factor for the District being 1.18)	
As compared with:	
Adjusted Rate for Bedfordshire	10.2 per 1,000 home population
Rate for England and Wales	11.7 per 1,000 home population

#### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	7	4	11
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	7	4	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Infant Mortality Rate	25.0 per 1,000 related live births
As compared with:	
Rate for Bedfordshire	15.9 per 1,000 related live births
Rate for England and Wales	18.0 per 1,000 related live births

#### DEATHS CONNECTED WITH CHILDBIRTH

Maternity Mortality	—	Nil
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### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA

Provided by the Bedfordshire County Council

#### AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Bedfordshire County Council continues to provide ambulance services from the five Stations for the whole of the Administrative County area.

Ambulance or sitting-case car transport is also available for carrying patients who are unable to travel by other means to and from hospitals or clinics when attendance for medical treatment is necessary.

In addition, the Ambulance Service undertakes the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

#### THE NURSING SERVICES

Chief Nursing Officer:

Miss W. Frost, Health Department, County Hall, Bedford.

Telephone: Bedford 63222

The District is adequately covered by Home Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting personnel, who operate under the supervision of the Chief Nursing Officer and her Assistants.

#### DOMESTIC HELP

Organisers:

Mrs. V. M. Van Berckelaer, County Hall, Bedford

Telephone Bedford 63222.

Miss K. Kelly, County Offices, Vernon Place, Dunstable

Telephone Dunstable 65861

Domestic Help is provided over the whole of the County in households where assistance is required. The amount of help given relates to the needs of those assisted.

# CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1970

Cause of Death	Total All Ages		Under 4 weeks		4 weeks and under 1 year		Age in Years								75 and over		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Enteritis & other diarrhoeal diseases	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malignant neoplasm buccal cavity etc	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Malignant neoplasm, intestine ...	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malignant neoplasm, prostate ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other malignant neoplasms	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Multiple sclerosis ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other diseases of nervous system	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Chronic rheumatic heart disease ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Hypertensive disease ...	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ischaemic heart disease ...	33	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other forms of heart diseases	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cerebrovascular disease ...	7	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pneumonia ...	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bronchitis and Emphysema ...	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Intestinal obstruction and hernia ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other diseases of digestive system	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other diseases genito-urinary system	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Diseases, musculo-skeletal system	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Congenital anomalies ...	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Birth injury, difficult labour etc ...	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other causes of perinatal mortality	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Motor vehicle accidents ...	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
All other accidents ...	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total—all causes ...	92	77	3	2	4	2	1	-	1	4	3	2	26	13	27	16	26 37



PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

No cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis were notified during the year. Immunisation against these diseases and whooping cough and tetanus is carried out during the first year of life.

In addition to these diseases, protection is offered against measles and tuberculosis. Recently girls are being given injections against rubella (German measles). If this disease occurs during the early months of pregnancy it can have serious effects on the unborn baby. Girls aged fourteen years and thirteen years are being protected and in future this will be offered to girls reaching their twelfth year.

Occasional cases of dysentery and food poisoning occur, but no serious outbreak took place during the year. When the patient is a food handler it is necessary to exclude the person from work to ensure that the disease is not passed to others.

NOTIFICATION OF AGE GROUPS

Disease	0 - 4	5 - 14	15 and over	Age unknown	Total
Measles ... ..	106	74	3	4	187
Whooping cough ...	3	5	-	-	8
Scarlet fever ...	1	2	-	1	4
Infective jaundice ...	1	1	1	-	3
Food poisoning ...	-	-	1	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS IN AGE GROUPS

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 years ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15 years ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-35 years ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-65 years ... ..	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Over 65 years ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ... ..	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

NUMBER ON REGISTER AT END OF YEAR

	Male	Female
Pulmonary ... ..	24	8
Non-Pulmonary ... ..	-	4

## MASS RADIOGRAPHY

A mobile x-ray unit, provided by the Mass Radiography Service of the Regional Hospital Board, visits the Health Clinic, Bassett Road, on Thursdays from 10.30 to 11.0 am and during this period patients sent by general practioners can be x-rayed.

## CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS

Section 85 of the Public Health Act 1936 refers principally to school children with head lice infestations and these are dealt with by the Health Visitors as a matter of routine.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948—Section 47

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act provides for the removal to hospital or Part III accommodation on a Court Order, of sick or old people who cannot look after themselves.

It was not found necessary to use this legislation during the year.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

### WATER SUPPLY

Adequate supplies of water have been maintained throughout the District by the Bedfordshire Water Board. The Leighton-Linslade Urban District is supplied from the Leighton Buzzard and Linslade Borehole sources.

### CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF TREATED WATER FROM BOREHOLE SUPPLIES (Average Analysis of Samples taken weekly)

Treated Water leaving Waterworks					Leighton Buzzard	Linslade
Turbidity (A.T.U.)	...	...	...	...	0.7	0.1
Colour (Hazen Units)	...	...	...	...	3	Nil
Reaction pH	...	...	...	...	7.80	6.95
Electric Conductivity (reciprocal megohms per ml at 20°C)	...	...	...	...	515	670
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.02	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.02	0.01
					Less than	
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.10	2.4
Chloride as Cl	...	...	...	...	33	25
Carbonate Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	...	...	...	...	185	248
Non-Carbonate Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	...	...	...	...	95	141
Total Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	...	...	...	...	280	389
Calcium as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	...	...	...	...	253	345
Magnesium as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	...	...	...	...	27	44
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	6	57
Sulphate as SO <sub>4</sub>	...	...	...	...	78	121
Iron as Fe	...	...	...	...	0.11	0.02
Lead, Copper, Zinc	...	...	...	...	None found	None found
Sodium as Na	...	...	...	...	14	12
Potassium as K	...	...	...	...	4	4
Manganese as Mn	...	...	...	...	None found	None found
Flouride as F	...	...	...	...	0.11	0.21
Silica as SiO <sub>2</sub>	...	...	...	...	9	12
					Less than	Less than
Phosphate as PO <sub>4</sub>	...	...	...	...	0.10	0.10
Temperature °C	...	...	...	...	10	12

(Results in milligrams per litre)

### CLEAN AIR

Pollution of the atmosphere is not a problem as such within the Urban District and so far as industrial pollution is concerned the Clean Air Act gives local authorities adequate powers to deal with smoke and grit emission from factory chimneys. During the year although some observations have been taken of excessive emissions, in each case investigated the co-operation of the firm concerned resulted in any nuisance being abated.

The department continues to receive proposals to install new furnaces and during the year 5 notices to this effect were recieved. When plans for new buildings have been received (which include the siting and dimensions of a chimney) the provisions of the Ministry Memorandum on Chimney Heights are used to determine the correct height.



A problem which does annoy people from time to time is the thoughtless manner in which garden and other waste rubbish is burned. Action under Section 16 of the Clean Air Act 1956 is difficult due to the infrequent nature of the nuisance.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS

The rivers and streams in the Urban District are the Ousel and the Clipstone Brook. The river Ousel adjoins the sewage works and receives the sewage outfall. The Great Ouse River Authority controls effluent discharge and the river quality.

## CARAVAN SITES

There is one licensed caravan site within the district. The number of caravans on the site is being increased to 45 and work is in progress to give each individual van its own water supply and drainage connections. From time to time caravans are sited in the area without the necessary approvals having been obtained, but informal action has always resolved this problem.

## RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

The Council employ one part-time operator whose duties continue to be mainly the routine inspection of the district and the investigation of complaints of rats and mice together with any treatment required. The refuse tip, the sewage disposal works, main sewers, waterways and canals have also been systematically treated. The Council's policy for treating domestic premises without charge has continued. Treatment with the common anticoagulants continues to be successful for rats. The Council continued its policy of treating wasps at a charge of 10s. per hour. 37 were dealt with during the year.

## NOISE ABATEMENT

A number of complaints alleging noise nuisance have been investigated during the year and where necessary informal action has been taken to either abate or mitigate the noise complained of.

## PETROLEUM ADMINISTRATION

There are 48 premises licensed to keep petroleum spirit including 2 premises where it is kept in cans or drums.

I am happy to report that during the year no accidents involving petroleum spirit occurred within the district. The Council has important responsibilities in petroleum administration and full inspectorial coverage is necessary to ensure that all aspects of the Acts and Regulations are being complied with, in the interests not only of the persons handling the petroleum but of general public safety.

## HOUSING

### CLEARANCE AREAS

2 Clearance Areas were declared involving two blocks of eight houses. The Council decided to secure clearance of the site by Clearance Orders as opposed to Compulsory Purchase procedure. At the date of the report the Clearance Orders had not been confirmed.

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the year the Council authorised 38 Improvement Grants, made up of 33 Standard Grants and 5 Discretionary Grants. In 28 cases the Council exercised its discretion under Section 46 of the Housing Act. Since the inception of the new 1969 Housing Act, 73 applications have been received. The policy of insisting that all houses purchased under the Council's mortgage scheme be improved to the grant standard has further helped to improve the stock of older houses in the town.

## HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

There are still among the larger older houses in the town a number which are in multiple occupation. These are occupied usually by families within families. The conditions are generally good and the occupants live and eat together as one family. Because of the control exercised in the past there are few over crowding problems in these houses.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses within the district.

## INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

This aspect of our work is an important one and I feel that good standards of Food Hygiene can only be maintained by regular visits by Public Health Inspectors to food premises.

During the year, many complaints have been received by the department from members of the public concerning various kinds of foods purchased in the town. All these complaints were carefully investigated and in one instance legal proceedings were found to be necessary and fines were imposed under Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 and under Section 35 of the Magistrates Court Act 1952.

### FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

Type of Premises	No. of Premises	No. which comply with Reg. 16	No. to which Reg. 19 applies	No. fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Public Houses ...	40	40	40	40
Greengrocers and Fruiterers ...	9	8	8	8
Bakers ...	10	10	10	10
Restaurants and Cafes	9	9	9	9
Wet and Fried Fish Shops ...	7	7	7	7
Confectionery Shops	12	12	0	0
Butchers Shops ...	11	11	11	11
Grocers ...	44	44	26	26

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district, one with a relatively small throughput and requiring meat inspection only one day per



week; the other having a larger throughput requiring the services of the meat inspector twice a day, 5 days per week.

Both slaughter houses, though of an old construction, are well maintained by their owners and kept in a clean condition both during and after completion of slaughtering.

The premises are also regularly visited by the Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

### MEAT INSPECTION

All meat killed at the slaughterhouses is fully inspected and if passed fit for human consumption, stamped by the inspector with the Council's identification and his number.

Charges for meat inspection are based on the estimated throughput and 66% of the maximum permissible charge is made. The contract provides for a review of charges should the estimated throughput vary by a substantial amount in any direction.

### APPENDIX

Carcase and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	CATTLE	CALVES	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS	HORSES
Number killed and inspected ...	1453	9	3737	1184	Nil
All Disease except T.B. and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	3	1	10	1	
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned ...	511	1	574	215	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. and cysticerci ...	33.37%	22%	15.62%	18.24%	
T.B. Only					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	—	—	14	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	0.06%	—	—	—	
Cysticercosis					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	15	—	—	—	
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	1	—	—	—	
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	

Of the total of 6,383 animals which passed through the two slaughter houses the total weight of material requiring condemnation amounted to 10,175 lb. During the year 453 visits were made to the slaughterhouses for meat inspection purposes.



## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The following is the report on the operation of the Act required by the Ministry of Employment and Productivity.

TABLE A — REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of premises registered at end of year	Number of regis- tered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Offices ... ..	1	93	30
Retail Shops ... ..	3	120	31
Wholesale Shops	—		—
Warehouses ... ..	—	7	2
Catering Establishments open to the public	—	9	5
Canteens ... ..	—	—	—
Fuel Storage Depots	—	1	—
Totals ... ..	4	230	68

TABLE B — NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS  
TO REGISTERED PREMISES

278

TABLE C — ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED  
PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
(1)	(2)
Offices ... ..	653
Retail Shops ... ..	571
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses ...	73
Catering establishments open to public ...	71
Fuel Storage Depots ... ..	3
Total ... ..	1371
Total Males ... ..	567
Total Females ... ..	804



PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1961  
PART I OF THE ACT

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of			Occupiers prosecuted (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)		
(I) Factories in which section 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	4	4	-		-
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	76	18	-		-
(III) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	6	6	-		-
Total ... ..	86	28	-		-

(Sections 133 and 134)      OUTWORK      PART VIII OF THE ACT

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of Out-workers in August list required by Sec. 133 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
(1)						
Wearing apparel {	Making, etc. ....	29	2	—	—	—
	Cleaning & Washing	—	—	—	—	—



# CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of Cases in which Defects were Found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S. i) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S. 3) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ... ..	3	3	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work). Information to Employers ... ..	4	—	4	—	—
Total ... ..	7	3	4	—	—

